

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-20 are pending in the Application after entry of this amendment.
- Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-20 are rejected by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6, 7-9, 12, 13-15, 19-20, and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,331,865 to Sachs et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Sachs et al. teaches a portable electronic book operative to request digital content from a catalog of distinct digital contents and to receive and display the requested digital content in readable form. An information services system is in electrical communication with the portable electronic book performs authentication and rendering the requested digital content. An authentication server authenticates the identity of the requesting portable electronic book. (col. 1 lines 36-46).

Applicant notes that identity authentication is performed in Saches et al. wherein the identity of the electronic book itself is authenticated. In fact, Applicant notes that notes that if the electronic book fails to properly authenticate, access to the network will be denied and the user will be asked to call a customer support number. (col. 4, lines 9-11).

Applicant further notes that Sachs et al. discloses a mandatory authentication scheme. Sachs et al. teaches:

Authentication

The authentication server provides client authentication for the entire system of FIG. 1. Every time an electronic book user navigates to a virtual bookstore, *the authentication server **must** be called upon, via HTTP, to do the following:* authenticate the connecting electronic book as a valid electronic book, authenticate to the electronic book that the authentication server is valid, establish a unique session key between the electronic book and the current virtual bookstore, record when the electronic book user logged in. (col. 3, lines 53-62).

Applicant submits that Claim 1 recites no such identity authentication. Applicant submits that Claim 1 recites the data is authenticated. This differs from Sachs et al. where the electronic book itself must be authenticated by a server.

In contrast, Claim 1 recites:

A method of facilitating commerce over a communications network comprising:
 generating data indicative of a retail web site, contacted from within a directory feature of an integrated shopping service of a client computer, said integrated shopping service comprising a content-rendering application, a retail shopping user interface and the directory feature, wherein a list of on-line retailers displayed by the directory feature enables navigation to a retailer on the list of on-line retailers directly through the list and wherein the list of on-line retailers is selected by a user of said client computer;
 generating a signature of said data using a private key;
 providing said data and said signature to a plurality of computing devices;
 providing to said plurality of computing devices a public key corresponding to said private key; and
 providing to said plurality of computing devices a set of computer-executable instructions which performs acts comprising:
 determining the authenticity of said data against said signature;
 and
 displaying a link to said web site upon a determination that said data is authentic.

Applicant notes that Claim 1 recites that a link to the web site is displayed upon a determination that the *data* indicative of a retail web site is authentic. Claim 1 does not recite that *identity* authentication must be accomplished by the authentication server in Sachs et al.

Since Sachs et al. fails to teach determining the authenticity of said data against said signature and displaying a link to said web site upon a determination that said data is authentic, then Sachs et al. cannot anticipate Claim 1 because all element are not present in the cited art.

Similarly, Applicant notes that independent Claim 7 recites "...an authentication module which verifies the authenticity of data against said signature and provides an indication of whether said data is authentic". As noted above, Sachs et al. fails to teach authentication of data. Sachs et al. also mandates that an authentication server must be used to verify the identity of the client (electronic book). Claim 7 has no such limitation.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0260/158416.2
Application No.: 09/836,524
Office Action Dated: February 1, 2006

PATENT

Also, independent Claim 13 recites ...” generating signatures for one or more of the web sites on said list using a key...wherein said computer-executable instructions include instructions which authenticate said signatures and which deny access to a web site on said list whose signature fails to authenticate.” Sachs et al. fails to teach authentication of a digital signature for one or more web sites. Sachs et al. also mandates that an authentication server must be used to verify the identity of the client (electronic book). Claim 13 has no such limitation.

Also, Independent Claim 21 recites “accessing a list which includes a plurality of web sites, each of said web sites having a corresponding signature and...determining the authenticity of each web site on said list against its corresponding signature”. Sachs fails to teach the determination of authenticity of a signature of web site data. Sachs et al. also mandates that an authentication server must be used to verify the identity of the client (electronic book). Claim 21 has no such limitation.

Since Sachs et al. mandates electronic notebook identity authentication via a server and fails to teach web site data authentication, it cannot anticipate independent Claims 1, 7, 13, and 21 and their corresponding dependent claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of Claims 1-6, 7-9, 12, 13-15, 19-20, and 21-22.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,331,865 to Sachs et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,717 to Reed et al.

Claims 11 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,331,865 to Sachs et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/037302 to McFadzean et al.

Claims 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,331,865 to Sachs et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0165241 to Fransdonk.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0260/158416.2
Application No.: 09/836,524
Office Action Dated: February 1, 2006

PATENT

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection to Claims 10 and 11 because Sachs et al. fails to teach authentication of data as stated above for independent Claim 7 upon which Claims 10 and 11 depend.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection to Claims 16-18 because Sachs et al. fails to teach authentication of a digital signature for one or more web sites as stated above for Claim 13 upon which Claims 16-18 depend.

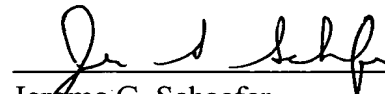
Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection to Claim 23 because Sachs fails to teach the determination of authenticity of a signature of web site data as stated above for Claim 21 upon which Claim 23 depends.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections and request reconsideration because the pending claims patentably define over the cited art.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 28, 2006



Jerome G. Schaefer
Registration No. 50,800

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439